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natural product on a water bath until it is hard, but not brittle, when cool. Then dissolve in a menstruum such as chloroform or xylol. After balsam is applied to the slide allow to stand over-night and then finish by placing cover glass over the sections, using gentle heat to render the balsam fluid. This mounting medium will then be found to be hard enough to withstand any pressure applied on the cover glass by careless students.

It is advisable to prepare this balsam oneself, unless it can be procured from a reliable firm which uses the above method of preparation.

GEORGE H. NEEDHAM

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY,  
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON,  
SEATTLE, WASH.

#### THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

RELATIVE to your recent articles on the history of science and its present position in American colleges, you might be interested to know that efforts are being made to adapt the history of science as a cultural course for engineering students. I taught such a course in the college of engineering of the University of Colorado, and now am teaching it in the college of engineering of New York University.

PHILIP B. McDONALD

DECEMBER 27, 1921.

#### AMEBOID BODIES ASSOCIATED WITH HIPPEASTRUM MOSAIC

In a recent publication<sup>1</sup> the writer described and pictured certain bodies in the cells of corn plants suffering from mosaic disease. Since the bodies are confined to diseased portions of the plant, it was suggested that they might be of etiological significance.

Those who are working on the mosaic disease problem will be interested to know that similar bodies have now been found in the light green portions of mosaic leaves of *Hippeastrum equéstre* Herb. This plant belongs in the Amaryllidaceae and is not closely related to corn. Its leaves which are thick and soft are well suited for cytological studies. The mosaic

pattern shown by *Hippeastrum* is quite different from that of corn. The intracellular bodies associated with this disease will be described in detail in a future paper.

L. O. KUNKEL

EXPERIMENT STATION OF THE HAWAIIAN SUGAR  
PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION,  
HONOLULU, T. H.

#### THE TUNING FORK

IN SCIENCE for November 11, I cited briefly some inadequate references to the actions of a tuning fork to justify the preservation of matter that was very old; there was no reason to name the writers for these references were minor parts of their papers. But in SCIENCE for December 16, one of the writers, Mr. Young, comes to the front, as if I had made a personal attack on him, and defends his former expressions, but qualifies them, still leaving the subject in a very confused state. He quotes his former dynamically unsound "statement that the fork has only a single note at the base" and now adds the indefinite remark, "This of course is only an approximation"; it is noteworthy that he does not attempt to state what he thinks is the truth.

In his final paragraph he attributes to Professor Watson an "alternative explanation" which is only a corollary of Chladni's old accepted theory; but probably the professor of physics would not use over his own signature such an inexact expression as the "center of mass tends to rise" or "lower," or leave it doubtful whether "center of mass" always relates to the same point.

CHARLES K. WEAD

#### QUOTATIONS

##### "KEY" CHEMICALS

LORD CREWE and Lord Haldane argued last week for the release of scientific apparatus and chemicals from the restrictions imposed by the safeguarding of industries act and the reparation act. Scientific research and the teaching of scientific students, they alleged, were seriously impeded because of the delay and difficulty in importing certain chemicals and apparatus from Germany. The stronger

<sup>1</sup> Bul. Exp. Sta. H. S. P. A. 3:44-58 (1921)